Use of MSG in food items

*308. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mono-sodium glutamate (MSG) in food products causes greater stimulation in children;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many countries have banned the use of MSG; and if so, the names thereof indicating the reason for such ban;

(c) whether Government are aware that Nestles have been adding MSG to noodles and are adding the same to soups, both of which are popular dishes with children; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban the import and use of MSG in India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) in food products can increase in appetite as a result of salient sensory stimuli.

(b) According to the information available, U.S.A., E.E.C. countries and many developed countries of the Far East permit use of Monosodium glutamate in food.

(c) M/s Nestles India Limited is not adding MSG to Noodles. However, they are using MSG in soups marketed under the brand name 'Maggie' within the prescribed limit under label declaration

(d) There is no proposal to ban the import and use of MSG in India. However, it is proposed to prescribe a declaration to the effect that it is unfit for use by infants below the age of 12 months.

"नारप्लांट-आर" गर्भ निरोधक

*309. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :
श्री कपिल वर्मा :

क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "नारप्लांट-आर" (गर्भ निरोधक) को परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब और इस तरीके को अपनाने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में कई महिला संगठनों ने गर्भ निरोधक के भारतीय महिलाओं पर परीक्षण संबंधी फैसले की कड़ी निन्दा की है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री एम० एल० फोतेदार) : (क) और (ख) राष्ट्रीय परिवार कल्याण कार्यक्रम में नोर-प्लांट का प्रयोग आरम्भ करने के प्रश्न पर सरकार द्वारा विचार किया जा रहा है ।

(ग) जी, हां । हाल ही में 12 महिला संगठनों से एक संयुक्त अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है और यह सरकार के विचाराधीन है ।

Linking of Upper Assam area by Railway line

*310. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five towns of Upper Assam area Nowgong, Golaghat, Jorhat, Bokathat and Moran are not linked by railway lines;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to link these towns by railways; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?